

Amendments to the Claims

These claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 7 (Cancelled)

1. (Previously Presented) A battery-powered radio, comprising:

- a receiver circuit, the receiver circuit operable to produce a received signal from a channel;

- a received signal strength indicator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the received signal strength indicator circuit operable to produce an output indicating an amount of power in the channel;

- a demodulator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the demodulator operable to produce a demodulated signal from the received signal;

- a signal quality indicator coupled to the demodulator circuit;

- a decoder circuit coupled to the demodulator circuit; and

- a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal strength indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit and the decoder circuit;

wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-energize the receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier with a carrier detect false rate, based, at least in part, on the power of the channel, and to determine an acceptable signal quality

with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part, on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit;

wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize the receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the carrier is determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the energized state until a determination is made as to whether acceptable signal quality has been obtained, and to de-energise the receiver substantially immediately without waiting for expiration of any time period if the carrier is determined to be present and the signal quality is not acceptable

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

1. (Previously Presented) The batter-powered radio of Claim 8, wherein the microprocessor is operable to de-energize the receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be present, without performing a signal quality determination.

2. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim 10, further comprising:

a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;

an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and

a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.